



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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FREDERICK H. BURKHARDT

Chairman

Minutes

Library of Congress--Wilson Room
March 18, 1975

Commission Members Present: Aines, Casey, Dunlap, Lorenz, Moore,
Scott, Velde, Wu and Burkhardt (Chairman)

Staff Members Present : Trezza, Price, Reszetar and Cranwell

Meetings with Senators and Congressmen

Commissioners meeting with various Senators and Congressmen gave a brief discussion of the results of those meetings.

A listing of the Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations is attached. Commissioners are requested to indicate their contacts and return the list to the staff office. It was agreed that additional meetings with Senators and Congressmen be held when NCLIS's appropriation request has reached the Senate. A list of U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor (and Subcommittees) is also attached.

White House Conference

Mr. Velde, Chairman of the White House Conference Committee, reported that every nomination for the Advisory Committee has been carefully considered. A list of approximately 28 persons representing the Commission's recommendations will be forwarded to the White House shortly. However, every name NCLIS has received for consideration will be sent to the White House.

Dr. Burkhardt suggested a matrix listing names of persons by area of expertise and geographical location be devised so that an overall view could be made. Gene Shalit and John Hersey were mentioned for consideration as possible Commission recommendations.

Executive Director's Report

Previous Minutes

The minutes for the Commission meeting held February 6 and 7 will be approved at the next Commission meeting.

National Program Document

Typed copies of the final draft of the National Program Document were distributed to each Commissioner. In working on the revisions, Messrs. Becker and Trezza reviewed every letter, paper or document suggesting changes. Chapter IV was drafted by Joe Becker. Because it is a first draft it will require the closest scrutiny and will probably be the most criticized. The report has been delivered to the Government Printing Office for production of a limited number of copies. The report will be sent to Associations, e.g., ALA, SLA, ARL, ASIS, etc., state libraries, government agencies, etc. Comments are requested by 24 April.

Final editing will begin as comments are received and it is expected that the manuscript will go to the Government Printing Office on 5 May for typeset and page proofs should be available at the May 22-23 meeting in Philadelphia. Mr. Trezza asked each Commissioner to carefully read the National Program Document and make final comments on any and all parts.

NCLIS Publications

At the suggestion of Mr. Casey it was agreed that in the future publications issued by NCLIS would have the names of the Commissioners on the inside of the cover.

Oettinger Report

Mr. Trezza reported that the Oettinger report had been received and sent to each Commissioner for their review and comment. He indicated that the report had been copyrighted by Harvard College. He expressed his concern inasmuch as the Commission has not, as yet, accepted the report and our review might require revisions. The final publication could be different from that which Harvard has copyrighted. In addition, the problem of the Commission's complete freedom to use the report and publish it as it sees fit might be hampered by the copyright. After discussion of the report and the copyright issue, it was agreed that Mr. Trezza would talk to Dr. Oettinger and try to clarify the matter. Mr. Trezza reported that he had already sent a letter to Dr. Oettinger which might accomplish this. It was also agreed that staff would seek clarification from counsel as to the Commission's rights to use the publication even with the copyright.

Mrs. Reszetar advised the Commissioners that she had talked with our Contracts Officer at the Office of Education concerning this matter. He referred to Article 12 of our contract with Harvard which is self-explanatory. (See attached copy.)

Policy Issue

The Commission is interested in studying the probable growth of commercial information services resulting in part from the Freedom of Information Act and other developments. There is a definite need for a policy on this subject and Col. Aines was requested, and has provided (see attachment), to prepare a position paper on this subject. Such a paper might be the basis for an eventual study to be undertaken by the Commission.

CLENE

The U.S. Office of Education has received 1,800 comprehensive proposals for postsecondary grants. Of the 1,800 proposed received, the number was narrowed to 135--of which CLENE was one. It is expected that it will be at least one year before CLENE is off the ground and only a limited amount of NCLIS staff and time would be spent on this project.

Related Papers

Robert Frase's paper (Transitional Programs) is the only paper received since the last Commission meeting. Mr. Trezza's feeling is that this is a good paper and copies have been sent to Messrs. Bystrom and Hayes so that they can now finish their papers. It is expected that Messrs. Benjamin's and Carvey's revisions will be received shortly. A draft of Mr. Riley's paper has been received for comment and reaction.

Study on American Indians

Miss Scott and Mr. Trezza met with Mr. Herman Viola, Director, Smithsonian Institution, National Anthropology Archives, Department of Anthropology, to discuss visits to Indian Reservations. Mr. Viola stated that he did not think site visits would be productive. Indians are tired of the visits from VIP's and want action. It was suggested that what may be needed is to call a conference of Indian leaders, educators, library personnel, etc. to discuss problems and possible solutions. Denver was suggested as the ideal location for such a conference.

Virginia Mathews, NCLIS consultant, has agreed to write a popular version of the report for distribution to various agencies mentioned in the study prepared by her.

Westat

A meeting has been planned for April 2, 3 and 4 in Washington, D.C., to review the recommendations in the Westat study, "Resources and Bibliographic Support for a Nationwide Library Program." Approximately 35 persons have been invited. A list of participants is attached.

Annual Report

Proofs of the Annual Report are expected to be received from Mr. Lerner. After corrections, they will go to the Government Printing Office. No estimated date of publication is possible at this time.

Tour of Bell Labs

Mr. Casey proposed that a tour be arranged to visit the Bell Labs in New Jersey the day before the regional hearing in Philadelphia on May 20. Other Commissioners also expressed an interest. Mr. Trezza agreed to send a memorandum to the Commissioners to see which ones are interested and make the necessary arrangements with Bill Baker.

Cost Effective Study

Miss Scott asked that consideration be given for a study on the cost effectiveness of the National Program Document.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

94th Congress
1st Session
Ratio 16/10

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* * *

February, 1975

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Committee on Appropriations
94th Congress
1st Session

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February, 1975

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Education and Labor

94th CONGRESS, 1st SESSION

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Members and Staff, National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

DATE: March 27, 1975

FROM : Andrew A. Aines

SUBJECT: Projection Number 1

As requested by Dr. Burkhardt and Mr. Trezza, I have prepared a "think piece" on the probable growth of commercial information services resulting in part from the Freedom of Information Act and other developments.

PROJECTION - There are several indicators that show the expectation of growth of a new commercial service based on the packaging of information and data resulting from the Federal government's research and development program, from the Freedom of Information Act, and from impact and assessment statements. The expansion of this segment of the information service community will have an effect, as yet unclear, on the "mix" of information performers and relationships between and among them. In turn, depending on the size and speed of growth, there will be an effect on the Commission's National Program for Library and Information Services.

RECONNAISSANCE

1. The establishment of a new, entrepreneurial community providing on-line retrieval services, featuring a variety of databanks in many fields: petroleum, patents, geosciences, chemistry, energy, Congress, government research and development, engineering and others.
2. The development of communication networks, such as TYMSHARE, or General Electric's worldwide network, that are bringing costs of transmission down.
3. The appearance of a vigorous young information industry made up of information services, publishers, and others ready and willing to exploit new information technology.
4. The strengthening of this segment of American business by the formation of the Information Industry Association, which combines sharing of information, lobbying, education and other stimulation to the members.



5010-110

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5. A policy promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget that requires Federal agencies to "sell" their information products to cover at the least the cost of dissemination.
6. This policy, together with the reduction of Federal agency budgets, because of lower appropriations or inflation, is eroding the policy of "free dissemination" practices by agencies. In turn, this development improves the climate that will help the "for profit" sector, especially if the government can be convinced to provide materials for dissemination to the private sector rather than make its own distribution.
7. The increase in society's concern for protection of the environment against the inroads of technology is demonstrated in the legal requirement for environmental impact statements. This is matched by many other requirements for documentation from groups within and outside of the government for many purposes. The growth of this kind of data and literature is proliferating rapidly in government.
8. Mr. Teague and Mr. Mosher have on March 6, 1975 introduced a bill (H.R. 4461) to establish a science and technology policy for the United States, and among other provisions to create a Science and Technology Information and Utilization Corporation (Title IV). The Corporation would be charged with assuring the widest possible dissemination of STI and in getting the STI out in the most effective form and at the least feasible cost to the user. The impact of this bill should it become a law is not clear, but it is evident that government information practices would be updated.
9. The improvement of the Freedom of Information Act makes it possible for the establishment of a new entrepreneurial community with the requisite skill and knowledge to obtain heretofore unavailable information and data from the government. With the growth of such companies, it is inevitable that they will seek out new sources of data that appear to be marketable.
10. As the country moves deeper into the era of the so-called post-industrial society, the information sector is expected to be a leading component. It can be

assumed that it will achieve political strength and stronger bargaining power with government.

11. As the community grows, it will have to find expanded markets at home and abroad. Should this eventuate, it will encourage the Federal government to continue a large research and development program to produce the new knowledge that can be sold in the form of information and data.
12. As this process continues, it is probable that there will be increased competition with the "free" library system and increased conflict between libraries and the "for profit" information sector as now seen in the copyright battle.

SIGNIFICANCE

The results of the so-called reconnaissance are at best conjectural, a glance through a murky crystal ball. But assuming that there is enough evidence to assume that the predictions may not be entirely off the mark, what does this mean for the Commission? It may be too early in the game to do anything more than continue scouting the phenomenon. However, in consideration of the early release of the National Program for Library and Information Services report, it behooves the Commission to take a more activist approach; we have to look beyond our present product and chart events and trends so that we can update our findings as well as our plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We should include a few thoughts expressed above in the National Plan to show that we are cognizent of the possibility of new developments that will affect information services and relationships among the information services in the public and private sector.
2. Early on, we should commission a study which takes a hard look at the need for new policies that will encourage cooperation and orderly growth as well as competition. Because the Office of Science Information Service, National Science Foundation, also has a stake in the outcome, it should be approached to determine its interest in a joint study.



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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FREDERICK H. BURKHARDT

Chairman

RESOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC SUPPORT FOR A NATIONWIDE LIBRARY PROGRAM

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